

FACTORS AFFECTING THE PINEDALE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Amendment: This Record of Decision (ROD) does not include any amendments to decisions in the Pinedale Resource Management Plan (RMP). Any amendments to be made will be determined at a later date. Thus, this ROD does not amend the Pinedale RMP by changing the ORV designation for the Mount Airy and Desert General Use areas located within the PAPA from "Open" to "Limited to Existing Roads and Trails" (see Pinedale RMP pages 33, 36, 37 and Map 11) as proposed in the Pinedale Anticline Final EIS.

Update of the EIS for the Pinedale RMP: The analysis documented in the Pinedale Anticline EIS updates the oil and gas reasonably foreseeable development scenario and the air quality cumulative impact analysis of the EIS for the Pinedale RMP. (Note: The air quality cumulative impact analysis in the Pinedale Anticline EIS also updates the air quality analysis in the EISs for the Kemmerer and Green River RMPs.) The Pinedale Anticline EIS and the Air Quality Technical Report document the analysis of the combined effects of all on-going oil and gas field development projects, including the Pinedale Anticline project (see DEIS Chapter 5 and Table 5-1). The Pinedale Anticline EIS analysis for the BLM Pinedale Field Office Administrative Area and adjacent U.S. Forest Service lands included an oil and gas reasonably foreseeable development (RFD) projection of 1,944 new wells (see DEIS Chapter 5 and Table 5-2), an increase of 1,044 wells over the original projections in the EIS for the Pinedale RMP. The Pinedale RMP planning file will be maintained to incorporate the updated analysis.

Future Pinedale RMP Update: The Wyoming State Director has placed a moratorium on Federal mineral leasing and associated and similar activities (e.g., rights-of-way) on all Federal lands and minerals that are unleased and/or that have expired leases in the Hoback Basin, southern foothills of the Gros Ventre Range, and the Wind River Front (see Figure 9). The moratorium will remain in effect until the impacts of leasing these lands for mineral development can be addressed in a planning review and update to the 1988 Pinedale RMP and the Bridger-Teton Leasing EIS has been completed (see DEIS Chapter 5). The RMP planning review for the identified areas will address any needed update of the analysis for Federal mineral leasing in these areas to reflect present day information and public input on air quality related values, protection of the mountain range scenic values, protection of the new and/or more densely populated rural subdivisions occurring on private surface underlain by Federal minerals, and other resource concerns. Pending budget allocations, the planning review and update process is expected to be conducted from the fall of 2000 through 2005.

Figure 9

Areas Withheld from Leasing
Until Pinedale RMP is Updated

Pinedale Anticline Environmental Impact Statement

